

Next president must take new approach to Soviets, ex-CIA director says

By Kevin Nance

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Changes in the Soviet Union will force the next American president to alter the way he deals with the superpower, former Central Intelligence Agency director Stansfield Turner said last night.

Turner, a retired Navy admiral who directed the CIA under President Jimmy Carter, made the comments to about 150 people during a speech sponsored by the Patterson School of Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky.

Turner outlined several international trends he said would influence American-Soviet relations. For example, "perestroika" — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's term for his country's effort to restructure itself — "is taking place because the Soviet system has failed politically, economically, technologically and culturally," Turner said.

A future American president must recognize the U.S.S.R.'s efforts to decentralize the economy within the restrictions of its political philosophy, Turner said. Already the country is offering capitalistic incentives to stimulate its stagnant economy.

He also noted that "glasnost," or openness, is "unleashing pent-up frustrations in the ethnic minorities there." That may lead to a form of government that is more tolerant of diversity, he said.

At the same time, he said, the Soviet Union is losing influence worldwide, even with its Eastern European satellites, because of its tacit admission that its economic policies have failed. "All the luster of communism is evaporating," he said.

Turner applauded recent efforts to reduce American and Soviet nuclear arsenals. Still, the U.S. stockpile of 50,000 nuclear warheads is "much more than can conceivably be justified," he said.

He also called for a diminished U.S. role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "We're paying more than our fair share in NATO," he said.

Turner noted that some countries in Western Europe now rivaled the United States in economic output, partly because of their defense burden had been lightened by the American military presence there.

More of the United States' resources should be shifted to domestic priorities, such as education, and away from the military, he said.

When the topic turned to international terrorism, Turner surprised some by saying that, in certain situations, American presidents do and should negotiate with terrorists to gain the return of hostages. He said many presidents — including George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter — had made deals with terrorists.

Washington Post _____
New York Times _____
The Washington Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
New York Daily News _____
USA Today _____
The Chicago Tribune _____

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Stansfield Turner

"It's a question of what kind of a deal are we going to make," he said. Carter's release of \$8 million in frozen Iranian assets to gain the release of 52 hostages in early 1980, for example, was wise because no more money was forthcoming, he said. But the Iran-contra affair was ill-advised, he said, because "there was an infinite supply of arms and, unfortunately, an infinite supply of other hostages."